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PAGE 01

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Environment - Wildlife

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SE NV, UR
SUBJ: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT;
WILDLIFE: SIBERIAN TIGER PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 060209

1. AS STATED REFTEL, WE BELIEVE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PROJECT FOR FILMING SIBERIAN TIGER WOULD BE WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION TO US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. SOVIET APPROVAL FOR PROJECT HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. GEOGRAPHIC OFFICIALS INFORM US ABOUT THREE MONTHS LEAD TIME REQUIRED TO ORGANIZE EXPEDITION.

2. BY LETTER IN OPEN MAIL TO DR. LEE TALBOT (CEQ), SOVIET WILDLIFE PROJECT CHAIRMAN KRINITSKY REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC HAS NOW SUPPLIED THIS INFO, CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 3-10 BELOW, WHICH WE ASK THAT EMBASSY TRANSMIT TO KRINITSKY. THIS INFORMATION AUGMENTS MATERIAL SENT EARLIER FROM GEOGRAPHIC VIA DR. LINDUSKA.

3. BEGIN TEXT

(TITLE): NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PROPOSAL FOR TIGER STUDY AND FILM EXPEDITION TO SOVIET UNION.

4. THE EXPEDITION WOULD CONSIST OF (A) DR. MAURICE HORNOCKER, AN AMERICAN SCIENTIST, (B) MR. PAUL BOORSTIN, PRODUCER-DIRECTOR

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PAGE 02

NC 71868

TOR:150252Z AUG 73

FOR THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, (:) AN OFFICIAL NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY DOCUMENTARY FILM CREW CONSISTING OF CAMERAMAN, ASSOCIATE CAMERAMAN, SOUNDMAN, PRODUCTION MANAGER AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHER (A SOVIET CAMERAMAN WOULD BE WELCOME ON THE ENTIRE PROJECT), (D) SOVIET SCIENTISTS.

5. IF PERMISSION RECEIVED, HOPE TO ARRIVE MOSCOW BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER. PLAN FOR THE ENTIRE EXPEDITION TO TAKE APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH.

6. THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPEDITION WILL BE TO SET UP A COOPERATIVE STUDY OF THE SIBERIAN TIGER. DR. MAURICE HORNOCKER WOULD MEET HIS SOVIET SCIENTIFIC COUNTERPART IN MOSCOW, AND TOGETHER THE TWO SCIENTISTS WOULD JOURNEY TO THE HABITAT OF THE SIBERIAN TIGER IN THE SOVIET UNION. THERE THEY WOULD LOCATE, CAPTURE, AND INSTRUMENT WITH A RADIO TRACKING COLLAR AT LEAST ONE SIBERIAN TIGER. THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY FILM CREW WOULD MAKE A DOCUMENTARY MOTION PICTURE RECORD OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT, THE RESULT TO BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. THE FILM CREW WOULD RECORD THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SIBERIAN TIGER AS WELL AS THE STORY OF THE COOPERATIVE WORK OF THE RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN SCIENTISTS WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE SIBERIAN TIGER.

7 BY THE END OF THE ONE-MONTH VISIT AT LEAST ONE SIBERIAN TIGER SHOULD HAVE INSTRUMENTS ATTACHED TO PERMIT EXTENSIVE FURTHER STUDY. ON HIS DEPARTURE, DR. HORNOCKER WOULD LEAVE HIS RADIO TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT IN RUSSIA FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE STUDY BY THE SOVIET SCIENTISTS. BY THE TIME OF HORNOCKER'S DEPARTURE, THE APPROPRIATE RUSSIAN SCIENTIST WOULD BE ACQUAINTED WITH THE METHODS HORNOCKER HAS DEVELOPED FOR BEST UTILIZING RADIO TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT TO STUDY THE BIG CATS.

8. THIS ONE-MONTH PRELIMINARY STUDY WOULD ALSO OFFER SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF CONDUCTING A LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING THE SIBERIAN TIGER. ALSO, A POTENTIAL RESULT OF THIS VISIT WOULD BE FOR THE RUSSIAN SCIENTIST TO MAKE A FAMILAR EXPEDITION TO THE

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PAGE 03-03

NC 71868

TOR:150252Z AUG 73

UNITED STATES WHERE THE RUSSIAN SCIENTIST COULD CONDUCT A SIMILAR STUDY IN COOPERATION WITH HORNOCKER, PERHAPS ON THE AMERICAN MOUNTAIN LION (FELIS CONCOLOR). THE SCIENTIFIC DETAILS OF THE ENTIRE TRIP WOULD BE WORKED OUT BY HORNOCKER IN COOPERATION WITH HIS SOVIET SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATE TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVITY FOR ALL CONCERNED.

9. ON A RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, DENNIS B. KANE OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY ARRANGED WITH ANATOLI BOGOMOLOV OF NOVOSTI FOR THE BASIC DETAILS OF TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION FOR THIS PROJECT. THE SOVIETY WOULD PAY \$5,000.00 WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL TRANSPORTATION FROM MOSCOW FOR THE ENTIRE EXPEDITION. NOVOSTI WOULD PROVIDE AN INTERPRETER, A GUIDE, AND A SUPPLEMENTARY CAMERAMAN AND ALSO ALL GROUND TRANSPORTATION. THE SOVIETY WOULD PAY FOR ALL HOTELS AND FOOD FOR THE ENTIRE EXPEDITION. DR. HORNOCKER AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FILM CREW ARE ACCUSTOMED TO THE OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE NECESSARY FOR THE CLOSE STUDY OF WILDLIFE IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT, AND WOULD ANTICIPATE THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR LIVING UNDER RUGGED FIELD CONDITIONS WHILE STUDYING THE SIBERIAN TIGER.

10. FURTHER DETAILS OF THE TRIP COULD BE DISCUSSED DURING THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN OCTOBER. HOWEVER, THE THREE-MONTH LEAD TIME NECESSARY FOR THE EXPEDITION MEANS THAT PLANS AND COMMITMENTS MUST BE MADE IMMEDIATELY. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR BOTH DR. HORNOCKER AND THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY THAT THE EXPEDITION BEGIN BY EARLY NOVEMBER. SO THAT PLANNING MAY BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, THE SOVIET NEEDS TO KNOW WHETHER THIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, ROUGHLY WHERE IN THE SOVIET UNION EXPEDITION WOULD NEED TO GO TO LOCATE TIGERS, AND THE APPROXIMATE LENGTH OF TIME THIS MIGHT REQUIRE IN NOVEMBER, ETC. IN ADDITION, NEED TO KNOW THE NAME OF THE RUSSIAN SCIENTIST WHO WOULD BE MAURICE HORNOCKER'S RUSSIAN COUNTERPART, AND WHO WOULD JOIN HORNOCKER ON THE EXPEDITION TO THE SIBERIAN TIGER'S HABITAT. END TEXT. ROGERS

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